

very narrow class of citizens who actually have refrained from making overseas calls because of a fear that they might be listened to under the NSA program. But these are not people who are accused of terrorism in any way. These are, rather, people who maybe would be—and it is a small class—business people who would regularly call, say, Afghanistan. Maybe they are importing rugs, who knows? But they are afraid to because their calls might be listened in to.

It might be academics, maybe a professor of linguistics who might be doing research into the Pashtun language, and now has refrained from making calls. These are people who have been chilled by the reports that their calls might be listened in to. They are American citizens calling the foreign country and would have standing.

Our bill gives those people standing, gives them a right to go to district court quickly and then with expedited review to the Supreme Court, so we could actually get a decision, very possibly, on whether the President's wiretapping was under the ambit of the law very quickly. It is very authoritative. It might break through the dilemmas we face.

I am introducing this legislation this afternoon and I ask my colleagues to give it careful consideration. It is clearly not partisan legislation. Given the current composition of the Supreme Court and the two new Justices who have just been added, it is hardly a liberal or Democratic court, and it could settle the issue once and for all so our country could achieve some comity on this issue and move on and discuss other issues.

I urge my colleagues and everyone else in this great country of ours to examine this legislation, see if they wish to support this legislation or something close to it, and maybe we can move this kind of bill on the floor quickly so we could get the kind of expedited review that I think many of us would seek from the one body that would have the authority to make such review ultimately, and that is the U.S. Supreme Court.

The bill will be handed to the desk for introduction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be received and appropriately referred.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 2470. A bill to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the A&B Irrigation District in the State of Idaho; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Southern Idaho Bureau of Reclamation Repayment Act of 2006. This Act authorizes prepayment by landowners of their allocated portion of the obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within A&B Irrigation District and will allow indi-

vidual landowners to prepay their obligations if they so desire. Additionally, the Act will allow the landowners who have prepaid to be exempt from the acreage limitation provisions set in the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982, thereby creating an appropriate market for the sale of those lands now owned by landowners who have either died or have retired.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to move this necessary bill through the legislative process quickly.

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2475. A bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino Community, to develop a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of a National Museum of the American Latino Community in Washington, DC, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise to speak about legislation I am introducing today which I believe will enhance the experience of the millions of visitors who visit our Nation's Capital every year, and will contribute to the ongoing, deeply rewarding, and profoundly important process of national self-discovery. As we learn more about who we are as Americans, we gain strength from our history and enrich our vision for the future.

In that spirit, together with Senators MARTINEZ, HATCH, BINGAMAN, HUTCHISON, and MENENDEZ, I have introduced the National Museum of the American Latino Community Commission Act. The bill will establish a Commission to study the potential creation of a National Museum of the American Latino Community. The Commission members, selected by the President and Members of Congress, will be tasked with studying the impact of such a Museum, developing a plan of action and a fundraising plan, and proposing recommendations to make the Museum a reality.

I am pleased to be building on the work of several members of Congress during the 108th Congress, most notably Senator HATCH and Congressman XAVIER BECERRA.

On May 10, 2005, Congressman XAVIER BECERRA re-introduced the Commission bill in the House of Representatives with Congresswoman ILLEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. Since then, 107 Representatives have lent their support to H.R. 2134, and tomorrow, the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands in the House Resources Committee will meet to examine the proposal.

Washington, DC is more than the seat of our government; it is the symbolic heart of our country. When American travel to their Capital, they expect the museums, monuments, and na-

tional parks they visit to reflect the complete American experience. I celebrate the recent opening of the National Museum of the American Indian and the announcement of the location of the new National Museum of African American History and Culture. I believe we must celebrate the diversity of our Nation and her rich national heritage.

Many assume that Hispanics have just arrived on our country's shores. But these newly arrived Hispanics are only a small segment of a much larger community that has been an integral part of American history since before our country was founded.

Hispanics soldiers fought in the American Revolution alongside General George Washington, our first Commander-in-Chief, and have served in every subsequent military conflict in which the U.S. has fought. During the war that led to our Nation's birth, General Washington's army was successful at Yorktown in part because of support from a diverse army led by Bernardo de Galvez on a southern front against the British, driving them out of the Gulf of Mexico, fighting them on the Mississippi and in Florida.

In the Korean War, 140,000 Hispanic soldiers served. During the Vietnam War, more than 80,000 Hispanics served. While Hispanics comprised only 4.5 percent of the U.S. population at the time, they represented 5.5 percent of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. More recently, 20,000 Hispanics took part in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. And today, more than 10 percent of the United States Armed Forces are Hispanics.

In sum, we will honor the more than 1.1 million Hispanic veterans living in America today, by sharing this long history with all who come to our Nation's Capital.

My own family's story speaks to this truth.

Over 400 years ago, in 1598, my family helped found the oldest city in what is now these United States. They named the city Santa Fe—the City of Holy Faith—because they knew the hand of God would guide them through the struggles of survival in the ages ahead.

For the next four centuries, that faith in their future guided them to overcome extremely painful and challenging times. As humble and poor farmers, the circumstances of their lives forged the priceless and timeless values my father Henry and mother Emma instilled in their eight children.

They were indeed a part of our country's greatest generation. My mother traveled across the country to work in the Pentagon's War Department, and my father was a proud veteran of World War II. In fact, one of his last requests was to be buried in his uniform.

Although neither had a college degree, they taught us about the values and promise of America. All eight of their children became first generation college graduates, inspired by their

dedication to God, family, community and country.

As the National Capital Planning Commission states: "the memorials and museums that define Washington's Monumental Core express America's connections to its past and its direction for the future. They help us understand what it means to be an American."

As a proud American, I want to ensure that every individual who visits Washington has a chance to learn the full history of who we are and who we are becoming as Americans. It is my hope that the Senate can work to pass this important bill that will record and preserve our shared American history.

In the coming months, I will work with the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee to advance the Commission bill. I look forward to speaking with my Senate colleagues about the Commission bill, and hope we can take the important step of establishing the Commission.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 412—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE NATION DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK, MAY 1 THROUGH 7, 2006

Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. CARPER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 412

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize the important contributions of public servants and honor the men and women who meet the needs of the Nation through work at all levels of government;

Whereas millions of individuals work in government service in every city, county, and State across America and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas Federal, State, and local governments are responsive, innovative, and effective because of the outstanding work of public servants;

Whereas the United States of America is a great and prosperous Nation, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the Nation benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of these highly trained individuals;

Whereas public servants—

- (1) provide vital strategic support functions to our military and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;
- (2) fight crime and fire;
- (3) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;
- (4) deliver social security and medicare benefits;

(5) fight disease and promote better health;

(6) protect the environment and the Nation's parks;

(7) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunities and healthy working conditions;

(8) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(9) help the Nation recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;

(10) teach and work in our schools and libraries;

(11) improve and secure our transportation systems;

(12) keep the Nation's economy stable; and

(13) defend our freedom and advance United States interests around the world;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States, and are on the front lines in the fight against terrorism and in maintaining homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent America's interests and promote American ideals;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, abuse, and dangers to public health;

Whereas the men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as those skilled trade and craft Federal employees who provide support to their efforts, are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances, and contribute greatly to the security of the Nation and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflict in defense of this Nation and its ideals and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas government workers have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas, and serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants;

Whereas May 1 through 7, 2006, has been designated Public Service Recognition Week to honor America's Federal, State, and local government employees; and

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week is celebrating its 22nd anniversary through job fairs, student activities, and agency exhibits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to this great Nation during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year;

(2) salutes their unyielding dedication and spirit for public service;

(3) honors those government employees who have given their lives in service to their country;

(4) calls upon a new generation of workers to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession; and

(5) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at all levels of government.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I stand in recognition of America's public servants who provide the essential, often unseen services on which our great country thrives. As the ranking member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, I am honored to submit a resolution paying tribute to these employees in celebration of Public Service Recognition Week. I am delighted to be joined by

the leadership of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Senators VOINOVICH, COLLINS, LIEBERMAN, COLEMAN, LEVIN, COBURN, and CARPER.

The 22nd anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week, which takes place the week of May 1, 2006, showcases the talented individuals who serve their country as Federal, State and local government employees, both civilian and military. From Hawaii to Maine, throughout the Nation and around the world, America's public employees use this week to showcase the exciting challenges of a career in public service and demonstrate how government workers create a brighter future for us all.

Public servants perform essential services that our nation relies on every day. They care for our veterans, protect our public lands, ensure the safety of our food and water, and deliver the mail and needed medical supplies, in addition to countless additional tasks.

Over the past few years we have all been reminded of the remarkable work of public servants, including our men and women in uniform. Their steadfast devotion to the defense of this Nation and the ideals we hold most dear is commendable. Nearly 2,600 military and Department of Defense civilian employees have lost their lives since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The sacrifice of these brave men and women remain a constant reminder of the courage with which the members of our Armed Forces serve. Nor should we forget those Federal civilian employees who work side-by-side with our troops abroad and provide needed support for their mission. Military and civilian employees alike continue to earn our admiration with their unwavering strength and dedication.

The men and women who serve in the Coast Guard exemplify public service as demonstrated by their tireless efforts to rescue the people trapped in their homes by the flood waters from Hurricane Katrina.

Another example of the countless contributions public servants give to the Nation is Orlando Figueroa, the Deputy Associate Administrator for Programs, Science Mission Directorate, at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, who led the Mars Exploration Rover Project. Mr. Figueroa and his team created a mobile science lab used to conduct remote exploration on the surface of another planet, which allowed the exploration of regions beyond the original landing site. This fantastic accomplishment has produced a wealth of scientific discoveries revealing Mars as a potential habitat. The work of Mr. Figueroa and other Federal scientists spark the imagination, fuel the human spirit, and inspire us to pursue even greater things.

President John F. Kennedy said, "Let the public service be a proud and lively career." While Public Service